

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ralph et al.
Serial No.: 09/975,471
Filed: 10/11/2002
For: Intervertebral Spacer Device
Utilizing a Spirally Slotted
Belleville Washer Having
Radially Spaced Concentric
Grooves

Examiner: Not assigned
Art Unit: 3738
Docket No.: F-209
Dated: 4/8/2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to the prosecution of the above-identified application, please amend the application as indicated below:

In the specification:

Please amend paragraph [0001] as follows.

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED PARAGRAPH:

al [0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/970,479, filed 10/4/2001, which is fully incorporated herein by reference.

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED PARAGRAPH:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/789,936/970,479, filed 2/15/10/4/2001, which is fully incorporated herein by reference. |

Docket No. F-209
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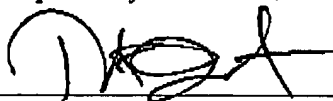
With this preliminary amendment, the Applicants desire to change the claim to priority in this application from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/789,936, filed 2/15/2001, to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/970,479, filed 10/4/2001.

Applicants therefore hereby request a corrected filing receipt.

In addition, if any further action is required to effect this change of priority, Applicants request that the undersigned be called immediately so that the additional required actions can be taken.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this preliminary amendment or any other matters pertaining to this application, the Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned be called so that the same may be addressed in the most rapid and direct manner.

Respectfully submitted,



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FAX COVER SHEET

TO: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

GROUP ART UNIT: 3738

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DATE: 4/8/2002

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